



CCM 2013 Testimony

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PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY COMMITTEE

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The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 92% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

HB 6015 ***"An Act Concerning Prohibiting the Charging of Fees for the Dispatch of Emergency Services in Response to 9-1-1 calls."***

The bill would prohibit any municipality from charging a fee for providing emergency services to the public upon receiving a 9-1-1 telephone call requesting emergency services to be dispatched.

Local officials utilize a balanced approach to ensure public safety is adequately provided without compromising local resources. **CCM has concerns with the proposal**, as it could prohibit a municipalities from properly managing local emergency services.

Municipalities utilize fees for providing several municipal certain services. Fees imposed for providing emergency services are done so only in select instances, such as repeated false fire or burglar alarms where the homeowner has failed to fix the alarm system after the first call. Municipalities use these fees not as a deterrent from individual calling 9-1-1, but rather as a way for communities to recoup costs for dispatching emergency services for flagrant calls that take the services away from other emergencies.

While we understand the concerns that have been raised in certain communities, CCM **encourages the committee to take no action on HB 6015**.



If you have any questions, please contact Mike Muszynski, Legislative Associate of CCM
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